



Standard Oil Gas Station

Odell, Illinois

Cost-Share Grant Project Spotlight

The Standard Oil Gas Station was built in 1932 to accommodate the steady flow of Route 66 traffic through the small village of Odell, Illinois. In the late 1940s, a two-bay garage was added to allow for repair services so the station could remain competitive with the nine others that occupied the short stretch of Route 66 through the village.

The gas station was in constant use until the 1960s, when Route 66 through Odell was bypassed by the interstate. The station slowly fell into disrepair, and would have been destroyed like seven of the other historic stations if it had not been for the vision of the Illinois Route 66 Association and the leaders of the village. First, the station was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Then, through collaboration with the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office, the station was restored to much of its former glory through volunteer labor, supply and material donations, and funding assistance from the National Park Service Route 66 Corridor Preservation Cost-Share Grant Program.

The restored station now serves as a visitor stop for Route 66 travelers from all over the world who come to rest under its shady canopy, learn about its history and enjoy a cold soda. The residents of Odell are very proud of the station, which has brought much attention to their village. In 2002, the station was awarded the National Historic Route 66 Federation Cyrus Avery Award for the year's most outstanding Route 66 preservation project.



Standard Oil Gas Station in 1998, before restoration.



Standard Oil Gas Station in 2004, after restoration.

For more information about preservation initiatives on historic Route 66, contact:

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program
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